

REMARKS

Claims 14-16, and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13, 17, and 19-26 have been withdrawn from further consideration. A copy of the claims is provided in the Appendix for the Examiner's convenience. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Election/Restriction

Applicant confirms election without traverse of Group I, Species 3, as shown in Figure 4, directed to claims 14-16 and 18. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that claim 26 (previously added) is also shown in Figure 4 and should therefore be considered together with claims 14-16 and 18.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figures 3-7 of the drawings for including reference numerals that are not mentioned in the description. Applicant has amended the description to include the reference numerals in question. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection against Figures 3-7 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of the Claims

Claims 14-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6757403 (Urushibata).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Arguments in Support of the Claims

The present invention, as recited in independent claim 14, is directed to a receiver for a listening device. The receiver comprises a magnet assembly, an armature having a moveable portion and a fixed portion, and a coil assembly including a bobbin and a conductive wire wound around the bobbin. The coil assembly is adjacent to the magnet assembly and, together with the magnet assembly, defines a passage through which the moveable portion passes. The bobbin includes an **armature-mounting structure**, the moveable portion of the armature being

substantially **centered within the passage** in response to the fixed portion being engaged to the armature-mounting structure.

The Examiner contends that Urushibata discloses all aspects of the claimed invention, and particularly that element 28 of Urushibata discloses the claimed armature-mounting structure. *Office Action dated February 8, 2006, page 3*. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough evaluation of the application, but respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion.

For one thing, Urushibata clearly identifies element 28 is a "magnet retainer," not an armature-mounting structure. *See, e.g., col. 7, lines 41-64 and particularly lines 49-51*. Secondly, even if the magnet retainer 28 may somehow be construed as an armature-mounting structure, Urushibata describes the magnet retainer 28 as a separate component from the bobbin. *Id.* The claimed armature-mounting structure, on the other hand, is included in the bobbin.

Furthermore, as noted above, the armature-mounting structure of the claimed bobbin provides an armature centering function. Nowhere does Urushibata disclose or suggest that the magnet retainer 28 is capable of performing an armature centering function. On the contrary, Urushibata relies on an entirely different mechanism to insure clearance for the armature, namely, laser welding to fix the armature to the magnet retainer 28. *See, e.g., col. 8, lines 13-20*.

Accordingly, or at least the reasons stated above, withdrawal of the rejection against independent claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Other differences between the claimed invention and Urushibata include the armature-mounting structure having a shape that substantially matches a shape of the fixed portion of the armature, as recited in dependent claim 16. Nowhere does Urushibata disclose or suggest an armature-mounting structure having a shape that substantially matches a shape of the fixed portion of the armature.

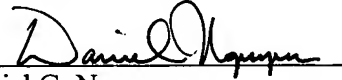
In any event, all of the dependent claims 15-16 and 18, in addition to reciting independently allowable subject matter, depend from independent claim 14. These claims are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 14. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection against the dependent claims is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant submits the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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